

REMARKS

Claims 12-15 were allowed by the Examiner.

Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under U.S. Patent No. 6,073,254 (hereinafter Whetsel), claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 4. Per the Examiner, claims 1-7 should now be allowable.

Regarding claim 9, Applicants respectfully assert that the express language of claim 9 requires the following:

"in a sequence manager mode, upon receiving the trigger signal, allowing each of a portion of the plurality of enable signals to pass through to their respective destinations in a sequence and for a duration; and

in a transparent mode, allowing all of the plurality of enable signals to pass through to their respective destinations".

Whetsel does not teach or even suggest a sequence manager mode and a transparent mode and their respective functionality as expressly claimed in claim 9.

Regarding claim 8, Applicants respectfully assert that the express language of claim 8 requires the following:

"a programmable memory receiving and storing a plurality of control signals and a plurality of enable signals;

an enable propagation control circuit comprising control logic receiving the plurality of control signals from the programmable memory, a reference clock signal and a trigger signal and generating a plurality of pass through control signals; and a plurality of logic gates, each receiving one of the plurality of pass through control signals and an input enable signal from the plurality of enable signals and generating an output enable signal equivalent in logical value to the input enable signal when activated; and

a plurality of sub-blocks, each corresponding to one of the plurality of logic gates and receiving the output enable signal associated with the one of the plurality of logic gates".

Whetsel does not teach or even suggest a programmable memory for receiving and storing a plurality of control signals and a plurality of enable signals. In addition, Whetsel does not teach an enable propagation control circuit comprising control logic which receives the plurality of control signals from the programmable memory. Also, as the Examiner pointed out, the EN1-4 signals taught by Whetsel are not equivalent in logical value to the input enable signal when activated. In addition, Whetsel does not teach a plurality of control signals that are pass through control signals; there is no indication in Whetsel that signals SEL1-4 are pass through signals. In fact, it appears that the TAPs, as taught in Whetsel, generate the SEL1-4 signals themselves, rather than passing them though.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given above for the independent claims.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully solicited. Please contact me if there are any issues regarding this communication or the current Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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